

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A top for a convertible vehicle with a flexible roof panel, which is attached to an arrangement of convertible-top rods and, in its rear area, to an attachment device of the vehicle body, in which a clamping device, acting on the flexible roof panel in the region of its attachment to the vehicle body in the closed state of the convertible top, is provided, said clamping device comprising:

said clamping device including a side bracket assigned to each side of the vehicle; wherein each side bracket includes a first end in spaced relationship to a second end;

wherein the side bracket forces the flexible roof panel in the closed state of the convertible top against an auto-body closure seal,

wherein the side bracket is pivotable at the second end around a pivot point that is attached to the vehicle body at the second end of the side bracket such that the second end of the side bracket and the pivot point are at the same height in the open state as in the closed state.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A convertible top according to Claim 1, for a convertible vehicle with a flexible roof panel, which is attached to an arrangement of convertible-top rods and, in its rear area, to an attachment device of the vehicle body, in which a clamping device, acting on the flexible roof panel in the region of its attachment to the vehicle body in the closed state of the convertible top, is provided, said clamping device comprising:

said clamping device including a side bracket assigned to each side of the vehicle; wherein each side bracket includes a first end in spaced relationship to a second end;

wherein the side bracket forces the flexible roof panel in the closed state of the convertible top against an auto-body closure seal,

wherein the side bracket is pivotable at the second end around a pivot point that is attached to the vehicle body at the second end of the side bracket such that the second end of the side bracket and the pivot point are at the same height in the open state as in the closed state;

wherein each side bracket is movable between a first position in the stored state of the convertible top and a second position that tightens the flexible roof panel in the closed state of the convertible top, such that each side bracket is pivoted upward with the first end ~~its end~~ ~~on the front side of the vehicle~~ against the auto-body closure seal.

4. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein the side bracket is arranged essentially in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

5. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein each side bracket in the opened state of convertible top, is arranged essentially at the height of the attachment device of the flexible roof panel and at a spacing from the attachment device.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein the side bracket is attached to the arrangement of convertible-top rods and can be moved by means of a drive device that drives the convertible top rods with the motion of the convertible-top rods.

9. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein the side bracket is attached to a main convertible-top support.

10. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein the attachment device of the vehicle body has a clamping profile for holding the flexible roof panel.

11. (Previously presented) A convertible top according to Claim 1, wherein the attachment device of the vehicle body has an at least roughly U-shaped clip essentially spanning the width of the vehicle, to which the flexible roof panel is firmly connected.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein the side bracket is arranged essentially in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

17. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein each side bracket in the opened state of convertible top, is arranged essentially at the height of the attachment device of the flexible roof panel and at a spacing from the attachment device.

18. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein the side bracket is attached to the arrangement of convertible-top rods and can be moved by means of a drive device that drives the convertible top rods with the motion of the convertible-top rods.

19. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein the side bracket is attached to a main convertible-top support.

20. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein the attachment device of the vehicle body has a clamping profile for holding the flexible roof panel.

21. (New) A convertible top according to Claim 3, wherein the attachment device of the vehicle body has an at least roughly U-shaped clip essentially spanning the width of the vehicle, to which the flexible roof panel is firmly connected.